Claims

1. Use of interleukin-18 for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention, reduction and treatment of disorders of the skin associated with damage induced by UV-radiation.

2. Use according to claim 1, wherein the disorder is a disorder that can be alleviated and/or prevented by induction of the nucleotide excision repair (NER) pathway.

3. Use according to any of claims 1 – 2, wherein the disorder is selected from the group comprising sunburn, inflammation, skin aging and skin cancer.

4. Use according to any of the foregoing claims, wherein the disorder is associated with apoptosis.

5. Use according to any of the foregoing claims, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 220 nm to 350 nm.

6. Use according to any of the foregoing claims, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 250 nm to 330 nm.

7. Use according to any of the foregoing claims, wherein the UV-radiation covers at least a range of wavelengths from 290 nm to 320 nm.

8. Use according to any of claims 5-7, wherein the UV-radiation originates from natural and/or artificial sunlight.

9. Use according to any of the foregoing claims comprising an application of said medicament to a patient in need thereof.

10. Use according to claim 9, wherein the application is systemic and/or topical.

11. Use according to any of claims 9 – 10, wherein the application occurs by way of application of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and/or by injection, preferably intracutaneous injection of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. Use according to claim 11, wherein the carrier is selected from the group comprising liposomes, ointments, oils, cremes, emulsions and dispersions.

13. Use according to any of claims 10 – 12, wherein the topical application occurs in a dose range of from 1 ng/ml to 1000 ng/ml.

14. Use according to any of claims 10-12, wherein the systemic application occurs in a dose range of from 0.1 µg/kg bodyweight to 100 µg/kg bodyweight.

15. Use according to claim 14, wherein the application occurs once to eight times daily.

16. Use according to any of claims 9 – 15, wherein the application occurs before, during and/or after a patient is exposed to UV-radiation.

17. Use according to any of claims 9 – 16, wherein the patient in need is a mammal, preferably a human being.